

- Claim 1. A method of harvesting and utilizing a human patient's body tissue, said method comprising the steps of cutting tissue at a first location in a patient's body, removing cut tissue from the patient's body during performance of said step of cutting tissue, said step of removing cut tissue from the patient's body including utilizing suction to move cut tissue from the first location in the patient's body to a location outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of cutting tissue, compacting the cut tissue to decrease the volume of a mass of the cut tissue from a first volume to a second volume which is smaller than the first volume, and thereafter, inscrting the compacted cut tissue into an opening formed at a second location in the patient's body.
- Claim 5. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of enclosing the compacted cut tissue in an enclosure formed of a biodegradable material, said step of inserting the compacted cut tissue into an opening formed at the second location in the patient's body including inserting the cut tissue with the cut tissue enclosed by the biodegradable tissue.
- Claim 7. A method as set forth in claim 6 further including the step of centrifuging the cut tissue to remove fluid prior to performance of said step of inserting the cut tissue into the opening formed at the second location in the patient's body.
- Claim 19. A method of harvesting and utilizing a human patient's tissue, said method comprising the steps of cutting particles of tissue from a first location in a patient's body, conducting a flow of tissue particles from the first location in the patient's body during performance of said step of cutting tissue, enclosing tissue particles from the flow of tissue particles from the first location in the patient's body in a sac, and, thereafter, inserting the sac of tissue particles into an opening formed at a second location in the patient's body.

Claim 20. A method as set forth in claim 19 wherein said step of conducting a flow of tissue particles from the first location in the patient's body includes utilizing suction to move tissue particles from the first location in the patient's body to a location outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of cutting particles of tissue.

Claim 21. A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of compacting the cut tissue particles to decrease the volume of a mass of the cut tissue particles from a first volume to a second volume which is smaller than the first volume.